



November 2023

Rowsley C of E Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it is not long to go until Christmas!

I know the children are really excited about all the events that go on in school, so to keep you informed, Mrs Middlebrook completed a separate sheet containing all key dates and information about all the exciting things that are going on in the last few weeks of term. This will be sent on ParentHub with this newsletter, and a paper copy was also sent home with your child last week.

Christian Values

Our Christian Values are: Love, Respect, Compassion, Belonging and Faith.

As a school we encourage all our children to flourish and be the best version of themselves through these values.

This term's theme is Trust. 'My God is my strength in whom I trust.' Psalm 18.2 and it is the focus of our weekly Collective Worship.

Miss Lindley is off to India

Miss Lindley has been given the most fabulous opportunity to represent Rowsley CofE Primary in India in January 2024. She will be spending time teaching in our partner school, Cemetery School in Kolkata. Miss Lindley will be sharing her experience through live video calls and regular blogs with the children at Rowsley and the children at Cemetery School. If you have any questions about the trip, please do ask her about it (she is understandably very enthusiastic). We recently sent home a sponsorship form and a mileage tracker in paper form, but they can also be found electronically on a ParentHub message sent 17.11.23. The idea is that between the two schools we collectively walk the distance from Rowsley to Kolkata, which is 5000 miles. There is a mileage tracker for you and your child to track the miles you have walked/cycled/scooted. We will be totting up the totals every week. You can make any donations on Miss Lindley's GoFundMe page <https://gofund.me/a706cd3b>.

This trip is a federated trip with Stanton in Peak, so she will be travelling with Mr Figg (Y5/6 teacher from Stanton) and several other teachers from Church schools across Derbyshire.

We hope you can support her in any way possible.

Staff Contact

We have had a few instances of parents messaging staff at the weekend or late at night, please note that if your enquiry is not urgent, you can talk to staff at the start and end of the day and they will happily answer emails and messages that are sent at a reasonable time. If your enquiry is urgent, then you can email myself c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk or Mrs Wyrer a.wyer@peaktorfederation.co.uk at any time and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Notice Boards

The school notice boards are updated and out on display every Monday, sometimes the weather is against us and it gets washed off by the rain, but please take a moment on a Monday morning to take a photo of the board so that you know what is going on during the week. If there are any changes, a message will be sent out on Parenthub.

BOOKS!

We have recently spent several thousands of pounds on a new reading scheme for our phonics and emerging readers, these books are for readers up to Lime level.

These books are all from Collins Big Cat and link with our phonics scheme 'Little Wandle'. There are also books to support those on our phonics intervention program.

Unfortunately, some of our brand new books have recently gone home and not come back in a good and readable condition. We do expect some wear and tear over time but we have already had to throw some books away due to the state in which they have been returned. If a book is damaged whilst at home, we will be asking for a £1 contribution to go towards replacing the book. Please take care of our books as we are passionate about our new reading scheme and want everyone to enjoy them.

Friends of Rowsley School

A big thank you to all the parents who set up and ran the school disco – it was a huge success with nearly every child from school attending.

The ever popular tea towels have been created. I have seen the proof copy and they look fantastic.

Raffle tickets have been sent home in book bags this week and there are some smashing prizes.

There is no Christmas fair this year, instead the Friends are running a Christmas Games Event in school time, which will be a lot of fun for all the children! Please see the Christmas events list for more details.

What is going on in school?

Such a lot goes on inside school, especially at Christmas time: the tree is going up; classrooms are starting to be decorated and the school is full of singing!

The infants are practising for their Nativity – The Most Disgruntled Snowman. There are some fabulously catchy tunes that drift into my classroom on a regular basis.

The whole school are practising songs for our Christingle Service on 12th December. Christingle is one of my favourite services; if you haven't been before, please do come along as everyone is welcome.

Mrs Hodgson has started her Christmas choir club (held at lunchtimes), as always, the children's singing is beautiful.

The Mother Teresa Class

This half term, our reception class have been learning about seasons! In their English lessons, they have been looking at the story 'Leaf Man'. They have loved exploring their surroundings more closely, finding nature in their playground, and then they had a go at creating their own leaf man with the resources they could find. They later went on to label their leaf man in their writing lessons.



Miss Lindley has been sending children from her class to see me regularly to show off their excellent writing skills – they are so good that I am running out of stickers!!

The Amelia Earhart Class

Children in Amelia Earhart class have been developing their team-working skills through a number of collaborative group tasks in different lessons, including English and history. They are working hard on listening to each other and giving everyone in the group a chance to contribute. In history lessons, children are really enjoying learning about the Roman Empire. Friday's ukulele lesson is always a highlight of the week, with children continuing to make excellent progress.



The Marcus Rashford Class

This half term we have been learning about the world's biomes in Geography and how climate change is affecting our world. This has been linked to our English lessons, where the children are in the process of writing to our MP (Sarah Dines) to ask what our government plans to do to help combat climate changes. In Science we have been continuing with adaptation, and have looked at how plants have adapted to grow in the Arctic and Antarctic. In Art we have started gelli printing. Gelli printing is so much fun and the children have produced some amazing pieces which we are looking to develop further before we break up for Christmas.



Forest School

We are so fortunate to be able to offer weekly Forest School sessions to ALL year groups.

The children always come back smiling and happy (and usually a little muddy)! Mrs Booker has recently purchased a ninja obstacle course for the children and they have had great fun using it! The children have also been exploring 'Autumn.'



Safeguarding at Rowsley CofE Primary

Thank you to those who wore odd socks at the start of anti-bullying week. Our collective worships that week were about highlighting what bullying is, how we deal with bullying and what the children can do if they feel they are being bullied or see bullying in school. This also links to our whole school PSHE focus this half term - 'Bullying Matters'.

Musician of the Month

November's musician of the month is British composer Gustav Holst. His most famous collection of work was The Planets – he was inspired to compose the music for this whilst on holiday in Spain. His piece entitled Jupiter inspired poet Sir Cecil Spring Rice to write the patriotic British hymn – I vow to thee my country – which is often sung at remembrance services.

Snow!

We will endeavour to stay open on snowy days but take the safety of our children and staff very seriously. If it is not possible to open school, we will notify parents/carers via Parenthub, on our school Facebook page and on Instagram.

School Term Dates

Autumn 2: 6th November 2023 to 22nd December 2023

Spring 1: 8th January 2024 to 16th February 2024

Spring 2: 26th February 2024 to 28th March 2024

Summer 1: 15th April 2024 to 24th May 2024 (6th May 2024 is a bank holiday)

Summer 2: 3rd June 2024 to 23rd July 2023

School INSET Days

Friday 21st June

Monday 24th June

And finally...

The school newsletter can also be found on our school website and diary dates are on the school website calendar.

If you have any queries or questions, please do speak to us or arrange a meeting. You can email the school at info@rowlsey.derbyshire.sch.uk or email myself at c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk

If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter, please let me know and this can be arranged. We wish you all a happy half-term break.

Live 'life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10b)

Claire Hewitt

Deputy Head Teacher

